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INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Maurer School of Law  
Bloomington

# RES IPSA LOQUITUR

Newsletter of the  Law Library

Volume 10, Number 4  
Indiana University  
School of Law-Bloomington

December 1999

## A NUTSHELL APPROACH TO FOREIGN LAW

by **Ralph Gaebler**

Do you need introductory information about a foreign legal system? Whether it be to choose a country for a comparative project or to find a specific nugget of information, the Library has a variety of sources that can meet your need, many of them in English.

Consider using the following titles to answer specific questions, such as, for example, which civil law jurisdictions provide a means of "piercing the corporate veil," or what the rules of res judicata are in a particular country.

*Martindale-Hubbel International Law Digest* (Law Ref. and Circ. Desk KF190 .M376). Many people do not realize that Martindale-Hubbel includes a volume that provides a thumbnail summary of the legal systems of approximately 100 different countries. Each entry provides several paragraphs on each main area of law, with citations to the controlling statute in many cases.

*International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law, vol. 1, National Reports* (Law Ref. K530 .I5). Divided into a number of soft-cover pamphlets, this series provides quite scholarly summaries of the legal systems of most countries. Its orientation is historical, and the series is noteworthy for thorough citation to statutes and leading cases. Unfortunately, it has not been updated since the late 1970s, and is therefore now somewhat out of date.

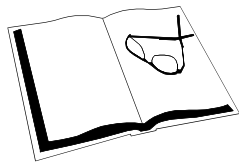


To answer more general questions, such as how the court system is structured, consider using monographic introductions, such as *German Law and Legal System*, by Foster (1993); *The German Legal System*, by Freckmann (1999); *The French Legal System*, by Dadomo (1993). The Library has an up-to-date collection of such texts covering a wide variety of countries. Of course, these monographs are uneven in quality, and vary in their orientation, but all are a good place to find general, introductory material. They are published precisely to make this sort of information available to English language researchers. To find call numbers for these books, which are scattered throughout the classified collection, do a subject search on IUCAT in the following format: s=law-[country name].

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## NEW & NOTEWORTHY - TRAPPED!



No doubt you have all pondered the question, "if I were trapped on a desert island, which 10 books would I want to have with me?"

Ask a librarian this question and you usually get pretty interesting (bizarre?) answers. My personal "desert island book list" consists of six constant titles and four others that are always changing.

New to my current list is a recent library acquisition,

*The American National Biography* [Law Ref. CT 213 .A68 1999].

Biographical reference books are an important part of any basic library reference collection, be it a law library or any other library. Whether it is the single volume *Webster's Biographical Dictionary* [Law Ref. Office CT 103.W4 1988] or the massive (published over an almost 60-year period) *Dictionary of American Biography* [Law Ref. E 176 .D562], good biographical directories can be a perfect starting place for answering any number of questions.

The new *American National Biography* (ANB) is actually an outgrowth of the old *Dictionary of American Biography* (DAB). While the original DAB was published by Scribner's, and the new ANB is published by the Oxford University Press, both have been published under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies. Of the more than 19,000 individuals profiled in the DAB, all who died before 1980, 10,000 are included in the new ANB, (with completely revised biographies). In addition, more than 7,000 new profiles have been added, mostly of individuals who have died after 1980.

The biographical profiles range in length from 750 words to 7,500 and each includes an appropriate bibliography which includes references to available archival resources. The 6,100 profile authors come from a wide range of fields including "Law and the Judiciary." In addition to the profiles, which take up 22 volumes, the set includes an Index by Contributor, an Index by Place of Birth, and an Index by Occupation and Realms of Renown (including: Lawyers, Attorney Generals - Federal

and State, Judge Advocates, Law Reporters, Legal Historians, Legal Scholars, Litigants, Public Prosecutors, and Solicitor Generals.)

The set has received rave reviews from scholars, librarians, and the press, "... an invaluable reference tool that is also likely to induce compulsive browsing" – *Wall Street Journal*, and was recently awarded the American Library Association's Dartmouth Medal for a current reference work of outstanding quality and significance. A complete online version of the ANB will be released in 2000, and will be updated quarterly. In the meantime, anyone can subscribe to the ANB's "Biography of the Day" listserv at <<http://www.oup-usa.org/ANB/bio-day.html>>.

By the way, here is the rest of my current Desert Island Book List (e-mail me a copy of yours):

1. *Scott and Amundson* (Roland Huntford)
2. *A Gentle Madness* (Nicholas Basbanes)
3. *The Golden Keel* (Desmond Bagley)
4. *Wreck of the Mary Deare* (Hammon Innes)
5. *The Story of the Indian* (George Bird Grinnell)
6. *Shackleton* (Roland Huntford)
7. *Wilderness and the American Mind* (Roderick Nash)
8. *Encyclopaidea of Associations*
9. *Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations* (Fred Shapiro)

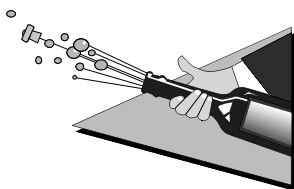
Dick Vaughan ([rvaughan@indiana.edu](mailto:rvaughan@indiana.edu)),  
*Acquisitions Librarian*

## CONTINUED CONVERSION OF JX CALL NUMBERS

The conversion of the JX call numbers has now been completed for the main collection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the library, along with the Reference collection. Virtually all of these books have had their call numbers converted, been relabeled, and reshelfed. What remains to be done are the books in the Rare Book Room, some microfiche, and books that are checked out. We will continue to work on these collections as time permits, or as the books are returned to the library.

Michael Maben,  
*Cataloging Librarian*

## THE REAL Y2K CRISIS: WILL THERE BE ENOUGH CHAMPAGNE?



While we've long been assured the planes will fly, the banks won't lose our money and the toilets will flush, one question still remains. Will there be enough champagne for everyone who wants to make a millennial toast on New Year's Eve? It's been estimated that 150 million American adults will toast in the new year with a glass of bubbly. Add to that figure 30 million revelers in Japan, 25 million in Germany, 20 million in Italy, 20 million in France and 5 million in Australia, and you have a huge demand for champagne –undoubtedly the highest in history.

Wine experts have predicted the supply will easily meet the demand—provided you don't set your sights too high. Some of the higher priced vintage champagnes may be difficult to come by. A hotel in California has reportedly been stashing away bottles of Dom Perignon for several years now and has over 2000 bottles in safekeeping. But if you can be content with a more modest label, you should have no trouble filling your fluted glasses. The wine industry started stepping up production five years ago in preparation for those of you who want to "party like it's 1999".

If you prefer your New Year's Eve champagne-free,

Welch's has reportedly more than doubled their production of sparkling grape juice in anticipation of the big event.

However you choose to celebrate the New Millennium, have fun, be safe, and let's hope the electricity doesn't go off!

*Nonie Watt,  
Head of Technical Services*

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## JULIET SMITH LEAVING LIBRARY

Juliet Smith is leaving her position as Electronic Services Librarian at the Law Library, effective December 9th. She is moving to North Carolina where she plans to take the bar examination and practice law. Juliet will be greatly missed by all of her colleagues in the Law Library and by the many students and faculty that she has helped during her time at Indiana University.

A search for a replacement for Juliet has begun, but it will likely take some time before the position is filled. In the meantime, please direct any questions regarding electronic services to one of the reference librarians.

*Linda Fariss,  
Associate Director*

### *The Suggestion Box*

(This month we have a guest editor, Ralph Gaebler, International and Foreign Law Librarian)

**Suggestion:** Get the Mongolian statutes. This is the only school where Mongolian can be studied. Why not have some good research materials? They would be used beyond just law students...Our "current" research ability is from decades ago.

**Response:** Thank you for your suggestion. We do attempt to update collections on a regular basis for selected countries as our budget permits. Of course, we cannot collect all countries, but we do definitely take into consideration the interests of other departments and potential non-law users. Following up on your suggestion, I was able to identify two English-language collections of Mongolian statutes (including Mongolia: Laws and Regulations, 1992, at Business/Spec Library, KPJ1.9), but neither of them appears to be very authoritative. If an authoritative collection of Mongolian statutes is ever published in English, we will certainly consider it, although we do not have a strong commitment to that jurisdiction.

## REMEMBER TO WATCH YOUR BELONGINGS

As final exams and the holidays approach, we thought it would be a good time to remind you to be careful about leaving your personal belongings unattended in the Library. We have not had any thefts reported since September, but please do not become too relaxed. Make sure that laptops are never left on a carrel or table without being secured. If you have not yet purchased a security cable for your laptop, please do so now! We frequently have trouble with books being stolen near the end of the semester. Make sure to put your name in each of your textbooks. If your name is in a stolen book and someone tries to sell it, the bookstore will return it to you.

We have requested increased patrols by the police during the holidays, but the best way to keep your belongings from being stolen is to never leave them

unattended! If you do have something stolen, please report it to the IU Police and to a Library staff member immediately.

*Linda K. Fariss,*  
*Associate Director*

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## SPECIAL CIRCULATION POLICIES

As you might expect, demand for a number of study materials dramatically increases during the exam period, and the Library has shortened circulation periods for these heavily used items. Hornbooks and nutshells, which usually circulate overnight, circulate for only four hours during exams, so please bear in mind that you must renew these materials on a frequent basis if you wish to keep them. However, due to the high demand, renewals are not guaranteed.

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With the two-week final examination period, the Library has changed its schedule and procedures in order to accommodate students' needs.

### Law Library Final Exam Hours December 4 - 17, 1999

Dec. 4	Saturday	8:00 a.m. - Midnight
Dec. 5	Sunday	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Dec. 6 - 10	Mon. - Fri.	7:30 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Dec. 11	Saturday	8:00 a.m. - Midnight
Dec. 12	Sunday	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Dec. 13 - 16	Mon. - Fri.	7:30 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.
Dec. 17	Friday	7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### Law Library Semester Break Hours December 8, 1999 - January 9, 2000

Dec. 18 - 19	Saturday - Sunday	CLOSED
Dec. 20 - 23	Mon. - Thurs.	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 24 - 26	Friday - Sunday	CLOSED
Dec. 27 - 30	Mon. - Thurs.	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 31	Friday	CLOSED
Jan. 1 - 2	Saturday - Sunday	CLOSED
Jan. 3 - 7	Mon. - Fri.	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 8	Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 9	Sunday	Resume Regular Hours

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## WORKING THE HALLS

*Happy Belated November Birthdays (sorry!) to:*

**Sr. Faculty Secretary, Veronica Hites** on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
**Patrick Schrems, Dir., Child Advocacy Clinic,** on the 29<sup>th</sup>

*Happy December Birthdays to:*

**Professor Craig Bradley,** on December 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Professor Lauren Robel,** on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
**Christine Rodden, Dir., Office of Career Svcs.,** on the 8<sup>th</sup>  
**Professor Ann Gellis,** on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Library Systems Coordinator Kris Skjervold,** on the 29<sup>th</sup>

*Happy Birthday to all those born in January:*

**Professor Hannah Buxbaum,** on the 9<sup>th</sup>  
**Professor Lynne Henderson,** on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
**Chris Zonkel,** on the 3rd floor on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
**Professor Roger Dworkin,** on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Professor Alex Tanford,** on the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Library Director Colleen Pauwels,** on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
**Professor Aviva Orenstein,** on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
**Professor Marshall Leaffer,** on the 31<sup>st</sup>

Hope you all have a great day!